

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace p. 1, paragraph 3 with the following amended paragraph:

However, there are a number of drawbacks to the use of the joint prostheses manufactured of biostable polymers, polymer mixtures and elastomers. For instance[[s]], when a biostable prosthesis is used the operated limb can only withstand a set amount of strain following the operation. Thus, a permanent strain limit for the operated limb has to be set, which may limit the post-operation activities of the patient. For example, when a Silastic.RTM. joint prosthesis is used to replace a finger joint, the operated hand may be strained only with a burden of 5 kg. Overstraining may lead to loosening, breaking or erosion of the implant[[.]] which forms the joint prosthesis.